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GARY R. FARRAR

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE:

SOUTH Y FIREPLACE, INC. dba WEST
COAST FENCE CO. INC.,
Debtor.

NO: 10-47419-A-7

DC No.: SLF 5

AMENDED MOTION FOR
AUTHORIZATION TO SELL VEHICLES
AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Date: February 22, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Department A

The Honorable Michael S. McManus

Chapter 7 Trustee Gary R. Farrar respectfully moves for authorization to sell eight vehicles (the "Vehicles") at public auction. The Trustee believes the proposed sale of the Vehicles is in the best interests of the creditors and this Court should approve it pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Section 363(b).

The Trustee represents the following:

1. On October 14, 2010, the Debtor filed this case. Gary R. Farrar was appointed Chapter 7 Trustee.
2. The Debtor scheduled the Vehicles as follows:
 - a. 1995 Ford Dump Truck, which the Debtor valued at \$3,150.00.

- 1 b. 1999 Ford F-350, which the Debtor valued at \$3,875.00.
- 2 c. 1997 Chevy Flat Bed, which the Debtor valued at \$2,760.00.
- 3 d. 2003 Ford Flat Bed, which the Debtor valued at \$13,325.00.
- 4 e. 2005 Chevy Silverado, which the Debtor valued at \$6,365.00.
- 5 f. 2001 Ford F-150, which the Debtor valued at \$1,910.00.
- 6 g. 2004 Ford F-250, which the Debtor valued at \$16,795.00.
- 7 h. 1998 Volvo S-70 T5SE, which the Debtor valued at \$2,960.00.
- 8 3. The Vehicles are stored at Ernst & Associates Auctioneers, Inc. (Farrar
- 9 Decl., ¶ 3).
- 10 4. The Debtor did not schedule any liens against the Vehicles and the Trustee
- 11 is unaware of any liens. (Farrar Decl., ¶ 4).
- 12 **SALE OF THE PROPERTY AT PUBLIC AUCTION**
- 13 5. The Trustee believes, based on his knowledge and on Ernst's evaluation of
- 14 the Vehicles, that there is equity in the Vehicles and a sale of the Vehicles at public auction is
- 15 the best method of liquidating them for the benefit of the estate. (Farrar Decl., ¶ 5).
- 16 6. The Trustee is filing, concurrently with this motion, an application to employ
- 17 Ernst.
- 18 7. The Trustee believes that by using an auction process, the Vehicles will be
- 19 exposed to a large number of prospective purchasers and, for that reason, will likely be sold for
- 20 the best possible price. Ernst engages in extensive advertising, including highway billboards,
- 21 television, and newspaper advertising, and it mails advertising brochures to its subscriber list of
- 22 approximately 6000 people. (Farrar Decl., ¶ 6).
- 23 8. If the Court approves this Motion, the Trustee intends to sell the Vehicles at
- 24 public auction at Ernst's first available auction date. The Vehicles will be sold on an "AS IS"
- 25 basis without any warranty. The proposed public sale will be held on the first available Saturday
- 26 after the Court approves this motion, at 9:00 a.m. at Ernst, located at 824 Kiernan Avenue,
- Modesto, California 95356. Interested persons may inspect the Vehicles at Ernst on the Friday

1 preceding the sale between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Information regarding the sale or
2 subsequent sale dates, if any, may be obtained by telephoning Ernst, at (209) 527-7399. (Farrar
3 Decl., ¶ 7).

4 9. The Trustee intends to accept the highest reasonable bid. If, in the exercise
5 of the Trustee's business judgment, no reasonable bid is received, the Vehicles may be held for
6 subsequent auction or private sale without additional notice. (Farrar Decl., ¶ 8).

7 10. The Trustee believes the sale of the Vehicles at a public auction is in the
8 best interests of the creditors because it is likely to obtain the best possible price and should be
9 approved by the Court under Bankruptcy Code Section 363. (Farrar Decl., ¶ 9).

10 **AUCTIONEER COMPENSATION**

11 11. As is noted in the accompanying application to employ Ernst, the Trustee
12 requests authorization to pay Ernst a 15 percent commission and to reimburse Ernst for
13 reasonable expenses directly from the proceeds of sale, and for Ernst to collect a 15 percent
14 buyer's fee directly from the buyer. The Trustee believes that this is a customary practice for the
15 auction sale of personal property and one which encourages the use of auction professionals to
16 assist with bankruptcy sales of property. The Trustee will file a report of the sale with the Court.
(Farrar Decl., ¶ 10).

17 12. In addition, Ernst incurred expenses totaling \$1410.00 to pick up the
18 Vehicles from the Debtor's facilities in San Jose and Ripon and transport them to Ernst's
19 location in Modesto in preparation for sale. These expenses consist of \$1280.00 to transport
20 vehicles from San Jose and \$130.00 to transport vehicles from Ripon. As is noted in the
21 accompanying application to employ Ernst, the Trustee requests authorization to reimburse
22 Ernst for these expenses. (Farrar Decl., ¶ 11, Ex. A).

23 **CONCLUSION**

24 The Trustee respectfully requests that the Court authorize the sale of the Vehicles
25 at public auction on the terms and conditions set forth in this Motion, approve the compensation
26 of the auctioneer on the terms and conditions set forth in this Motion (15 percent seller's

1 commission, reimbursement of reasonable expenses, and 15 percent buyer's fee), approve the
2 reimbursement of the auctioneer for the expenses incurred totaling \$1410.00 to pick up the
3 Vehicles and transport them to Ernst's property, and that it grant such other and further relief as
4 is appropriate.

5 Dated: January 25, 2011

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7 By: /s/ Dana A. Suntag
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GARY R. FARRAR
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